

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 199903

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, GR, TU, UN, PLOS

SUBJECT: GREEK AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

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RE SISMIK

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED AUGUST 11 ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB TO CONVEY THE TEXTS OF THE SECOND GREEK PROTEST NOTE AND CARAMANLIS' PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING THE INTENTIONS OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. ALEXANDRAKIS HOPED THE US APPRECIATED THE WAY GREECE WAS ADHERING TO PEACEFUL PROCEDURES IN THE FACE OF "ARBITRARY" TURKISH ACTION. HE ALSO REITERATED THE GREEK POSITION ON THE SISMİK AND SOUGHT TO DRAW US OUT ON THE POSITION WE WILL TAKE AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE.

2. HABIB INFORMED THE GREEK AMBASSADOR OF THE GIST OF THE SECRETARY'S ORAL MESSAGES TO BITSIOS AND THE TURKS. AS WE HAD TOLD BITSIOS WE WOULD DO, WE HAD RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FROM ANKARA THAT THE SISMİK'S OPERATIONS WOULD NOT INVOLVE PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH THE CONTINENTAL SHELF; NOR WOULD THESE OPERATIONS AFFECT IN THE TURKISH VIEW THE SHELF CLAIMS OF EITHER STATE. HABIB ALSO QUOTED THE SECRETARY'S PUBLIC REMARKS IN FRANCE THE DAY BEFORE, IN WHICH HE SAID THAT THE ISSUES, WHICH ARE ESSENTIALLY OF A LEGAL NATURE, CAN BE DETERMINED IN MANY FORUMS, AND THEY DO NOT, IN OUR STRONG

OPINION, JUSTIFY RECOURSE TO MILITARY ACTION BY EITHER SIDE

3. HABIB WENT ON TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE USG HAS NOT AS YET DECIDED WHAT IT WILL SAY OR DO AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. WE WERE, AS IS OUR USUAL PRACTICE, AWAITING THE PRESENTATIONS OF THE TWO PROTAGONISTS AND OF RESOLUTIONS ON THIS MATTER, AND ONLY AFTERWARDS WOULD WE EXPRESS OUR OPINION.

4. ALEXANDRAKIS DISPLAYED SOME FEELING OF INJURY AT HEARING THAT THE US AND PERHAPS SOME NATO ALLIES WOULD NOT PROVIDE UNQUESTIONED SUPPORT FOR GREECE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, CLAIMING THIS "EVENHANDED" STANCE IGNORED THE CAUSE OF THE PRESENT DIFFICULTY -- TURKISH "PROVOCATION" -- AND HENCE FAVORED TURKEY.

5. HABIB REMINDED ALEXANDRAKIS THAT WE HAD NOT USED THE TERM EVENHANDED. WHAT WE WOULD NOT DO WOULD BE TO TAKE
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SIDES, SINCE DOING SO WOULD UNDERMINE OUR BASIC DESIRE TO PLAY A HELPFUL ROLE. THERE WAS, MOREOVER, A COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS WITHIN NATO WHICH WANTED THIS MATTER RESOLVED THROUGH PEACEFUL DISCOURSE OR ADJUDICATION, A STANCE WHICH ACCORDED WITH THE OBJECTIVES STATED IN CARAMANLIS' "STATESMANLIKE" SPEECH OF APRIL 10.

6. IN A CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY

LAINGEN FOLLOWING THE HABIB MEETING, ALEXANDRAKIS COMPLAINED ABOUT A VIEW EMANATING FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT GREECE WAS PURPOSELY DELAYING THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID HE WAS TELLING HIS CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS THAT WHILE GREECE HAD HAD DIFFICULTY WITH THE TURKISH DCA, THIS DID NOT DETRACT FROM ITS DESIRE TO SEE THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE GREEK DCA CONCLUDED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME.

7. LAINGEN REPLIED THAT THERE WERE OBVIOUSLY A NUMBER OF DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAD NOT AS YET BEEN SURMOUNTED, BUT WE HAVE NOT ATTRIBUTED OUR INABILITY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THESE DIFFICULTIES TO A DELIBERATE POLICY ON THE GREEK SIDE. KISSINGER

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